

NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Topic: COLIFORM SAMPLING PLAN
Bulletin Number: BSDW-92-5

Section/Program: BUREAU OF SAFE
DRINKING WATER

TO: ALL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

The revised Total Coliform Rule requires Public Water Systems to collect coliform samples at sites which are representative of the water throughout the distribution system, according to a written sample siting plan.

The regulatory requirement for sample siting plan can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations – 40 CFR 141.21(a) and was adopted by the State Board of Health by reference on July 16, 1992 – Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 445A.454

All Public Water Systems must prepare a written sampling plan according to the following criteria:

1. **Prepare a general schematic of the water system.** This includes:
 - a) Source water location(s) (wells, lakes, streams, springs, etc.);
 - b) Storage facility location(s) (water tanks, pressure tanks, reservoirs);
 - c) Treatment system location(s), if applicable;
 - d) Pumping system location(s) and remaining distribution system.
2. Select sample sites and indicate their location on the schematic.
 - a) **Sites must be representative of water throughout the distribution system** and of each pressure zone. Do not select sites which have point of use treatment devices.
 - b) Sampling taps must be properly constructed and clean. Swivel faucets, leaky faucets, yard or fire hydrants, faucets with aerators or other attachments are all examples of poor sample taps.
 - c) Sampling taps must be accessible for routine monitoring.
 - d) Sites must be considered which will allow upstream and downstream repeat sampling if a routine water sample is coliform present. Upstream and downstream repeat samples must be taken within 5 service connections of the positive routine sample, unless the system has only one (1) connection.
3. Indicate sampling schedule. Public Water Systems serving 4,900 persons or more or systems using surface water must collect samples at regular time intervals throughout the month (i.e. do not collect all required samples on a single day). Sampling should be scheduled early in the month or quarter to allow time for resampling if needed.